



# REPORT

**TO:** Administration Committee and Regional Council (RC)  
**FROM:**  Molly Hoffman, Senior Regional Planner, Environmental Planning, 213-236-1804,  
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**DATE:** July 31, 2003  
**SUBJECT:** EPA Grant Proposal – Plan, Organize, and Conduct a National Air Quality and  
Smart Growth Workshop  
**EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR APPROVAL** 

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## Recommended Action:

Approve Staff Recommendations

## Summary:

Staff recommends that the Administration Committee and Regional Council (RC) grant staff the authority to submit to the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) a grant application requesting \$200,000 to plan, organize and conduct a national air quality and smart growth workshop. EPA is seeking applications to conduct a national, multidisciplinary event that focuses on identifying ways of making Smart Growth and Air Quality Programs work together better. The workshop would be a 2 to 2 1/2 day event to be convened in the Summer of 2004.

## Background:

EPA's Information Transfer and Program Integration Division (Office of Air Quality Planning and Standards) is examining the connection of air quality management issues with smart growth issues. Smart growth development practices support national environmental goals by protecting sensitive habitats and watersheds, minimizing water quality impacts from development, reducing air emissions. Practices include such measures as increasing transportation choices and reducing heat island effects, and encouraging cleanup and sustainable redevelopment of Brownfields.

Smart growth/anti-sprawl policies and practices would promote denser, mixed use, more walkable, transit-connected new development where greenfield building is unavoidable, and redevelopment in central cities and older suburbs capitalizing on existing infrastructure and locational advantages. Policies and practices that may indirectly promote sprawl would be those that make it easier and/or less expensive to create single-use, auto-dependent, low density development.

EPA is seeking ways in which EPA and its partners could do more to try to ensure that air regulations and policies and land use policies and programs work together as effectively as possible to encourage the achievement of common goals and multiple objectives. The



workshop would focus on what ideas a diverse group of professionals have for making air regulations, policies and programs work in the best way possible to promote clean air and smart growth and to make it easier for local growth management initiatives to coordinate for multiple regional objectives.

The workshop is required to be limited in size, not more than 150 participants, so as to ensure maximum opportunities for discussion, brainstorming and problem solving. The workshop, which may be by invitation only, would solicit a multi-disciplinary audience such as local elected officials, key local government staff, transportation professionals, planners, realtors, public health officials, urban designers, advocates for public interest and environmental justice interests, state and local air quality planning staff, representatives from state governor's offices, academics, builders and developers.

**Fiscal Impact:**

Approval of these staff recommendations will have a positive fiscal impact on SCAG.